

## INVENTORY OF THE NELSON A. MILES PAPERS

The Nelson A. Miles Papers contain a variety of personal and official items from 1857 to 1925. Miles' activities in the Civil War, the Indian Wars, the Spanish-American War, and as the last Commanding General of the Army are well represented.

Of special interest are the extensive correspondences on the Kiowa-Comanche War, 1874-75; the Sioux Wars of 1876, 1880, and 1890-91; Chief Joseph and the Nez Perce, 1877; Geronimo and the Apaches, 1886; Pine Ridge Agency and Wounded Knee, 1890-91; the Cuban and Puerto Rican campaigns of the Spanish-American War; and the Philippine Insurrection. Also noteworthy are Miles' frequent criticisms of the actions and policies that led to the Indian wars and his urgings of better, fairer, and more humane treatment of the Indians. His correspondences as Commanding General show a concern with the size, organization, and efficiency of the Army. A more detailed description of the papers follows.

General Miles preserved most of the items in this collection. Included with Nelson Miles' papers were some articles and photographs belonging to his son, Sherman Miles. Sherman Miles' papers have been made a subset of the collection. Some additional letters of General Miles' from other acquisitions have been added. Also, the Samuel Reber-Nelson A. Papers, previously in the archives, have been added as a subset of this collection (Reber was Miles' aide and son-in-law).

The papers are generally arranged in chronological order. Some items of special interest are in separate folders and personal papers have been separated from official papers within the chronological sequence.

All photographs are deposited in the Photo Archives.

- Box 1 Early Years – Civil War – Reconstruction, 1857-1869
- a. Personal Correspondence, 1857-1861
  - b. Civil War – official papers, 1861-62
  - c. Civil War – personal correspondence, 1863
  - d. Civil War – official papers – reports, orders, 1863
  - e. Medal of Honor for actions at Chancellorsville, 1892
  - f. Civil War – personal correspondence, 1864-65
  - h. Civil War – official papers, orders, reports, 1865
  - i. Papers relating to the Volunteer Military Service of Major General Nelson Miles, 1861-94
  - j. Civil War Service – muster rolls, orders for promotion, 1861-66
  - k. Command of Fort Monroe – official papers, 1865-66
  - l. Jefferson Davis' Imprisonment at Fort Monroe, 1865
  - m. Jefferson Davis' Imprisonment at Fort Monroe, 1866
  - n. Jefferson Davis' Imprisonment – remembrances and justification, 1878-1905
  - o. Military District of North Carolina, 1865-68  
Freedmen's Bureau – official papers
  - p. Military District of North Carolina – official papers, 1867-69
  - q. Army Reorganization – letter to James Garfield, 1868
  - r. Clippings, wedding in North Carolina, 1868

- Box 2 Indian Wars, 1868-1886
- a. Fifth Infantry – official papers, 1869-1873
  - b. Personal correspondence, 1874-75
  - c. Army Reorganization – letters to H.B. Banning, 1876
  - d. Kiowa – Comanche Campaign, 1874-75
  - e. Sioux Campaign, 1876-77
  - f. Campaigns against Sioux and Nez Perce, 1876-78
  - g. Nez Perce Campaign, 1877
  - h. Nelson A. Miles commanding "Yellowstone Command,"  
Letters concerning the Nez Perce War, 1877
  - i. Fifth Infantry, Ft. Keogh, M.T. – Indian affairs, 1878-1889
  - j. Sioux – Capture and surrender of hostile bands of Sioux, 1880-81
  - k. Endorsement for promotion and promotion to Brigadier General, 1878-1880
  - l. Letter to the President regarding treatment of the Nez Perce, 1881
  - m. "Our Indian Question," 1881
  - n. Department of the Columbia – official reports, letters, general comments on Indian affairs, 1881 - July 1885
  - o. Department of the Missouri – official papers, reports, July 1885-Feb 1886
  - p. Endorsement for promotion to Major General, 1886

- Box 3 Department of Arizona, 1886-1888
- a. Apache Campaign, 1886 – conduct of campaign, capture of Geronimo,

- reports and official correspondences, statement of Geronimo, 1886, 1890
- b. Apache Campaign, 1886 – letters concerning capture of Geronimo, Natchez and others sent east, - also Major General vacancy, 1886
- c. Apache Campaign, 1886 – conduct of campaign, capture of Geronimo - official printed correspondence, 1886-87
- d. [As above] Duplicate set
- e. Apache Campaign, 1886 – capture of Geronimo – official reports of Secretary of War, 1886-1890
- f. Apache Campaign, 1886 – heliograph system, 1886-87
- g. Apache Campaign, 1886 – newspaper clippings, 1886
- h. Department of Arizona – capture of Geronimo – orders, official reports, printed correspondence, 1886-87
- i. Department of Arizona – official and personal correspondence relating to Indian Affairs, Apache and Nez Perce, promotion, reassignment, 1888

Box 4 Dec. 1888 – Mar 1898

- a. Division of the Pacific – official correspondence and reports, Dec. 1888 – Sept. 1890
- b. Department of the Missouri – official correspondence and reports, 1890-93
- c. Personal papers and correspondence, 1890-94
- d. Sioux War, 1890-91 – commissioner to treat with Cheyenne, Ghost Dance, Wounded Knee, 1890-91
- e. Sioux War, 1890-91 – Ghost Dance, clipping, 1890-91
- f. Sioux War, 1890-91 – maps, 1890-91
- g. Sioux War, 1890-91 – proceedings of an investigation [Wounded Knee], 1890-1891
- h. [As above] Duplicate, 1890-91
- i. Sioux War, 1890-91, correspondence, 1890-91
- j. Sioux War, 1890-91, correspondence relating to Wounded Knee and to Indian affairs in South Dakota, 1891
- k. Department of the Missouri, condition of the Indians, 1892-94
- l. Department of the Missouri, Pullman Strike, 1894
- m. Command of the Army, appointment, official reports, 1895-98
- n. Personal correspondence and papers, 1895-97
- o. Tour of observation in Europe – Report on Turkish-Greek War, 1897

Box 5 Spanish-American War, 1898

- a. Spanish-American War, preparations and Cuban campaign, 1898
- b. Spanish-American War, recommendations about camps, artillery, arms, ammunition, and equipment by General Miles, March to August 1898
- c. Spanish-American War, correspondence on Cuba and Puerto Rico, 1898
- d. Spanish-American War, Puerto Rican campaign, 1898
- e. General and Special Field Orders and Circulars, Headquarters of the Army, 1898 (bound)

- f. Letters received, Headquarters, Army in the Field, May 28, 1898 to July 7, 1898 (bound)
- g. Letters sent, Headquarters, Army in the Field, May 31, 1898 to July 8, 1898

Box 6 Spanish-American War, 1898

- a. Spanish-American War, official correspondence relative to Santiago and Puerto Rican campaigns
- b. Spanish-American War, diary of Lieutenant Colonel Marian P. Maus; annotations by General Miles, 1898
- c. Spanish-American War, confidential report of Lieutenant Colonel Marian P. Maus concerning operations during the Spanish-American War
- d. Annual Report of the Major General Commanding the Army and Supplement
- e. Spanish-American War, article in the North American Review, 1899
- f. Spanish-American War, draft of a reply to an article by Secretary of War Alger, 1900

Box 7 1898-1925

- a. Personal correspondence and papers, 1898-1903
- b. Reorganization of the Army – 1898, 1900, 1902; and Army Schools – 1901
- c. Commanding General, official papers, annual reports, general orders, letters to the Secretary of War, 1899-1902
- d. Commanding General, official correspondence from 1900-01, includes information regarding the Philippines and the Boxer Rebellion
- e. Commanding General, official correspondence from 1902-03, includes information on the Philippines, retirement
- f. Commanding General, inspection tour of the Philippines and the Far East, 1902-03
- g. Personal correspondence after retirement, 1904-25
- h. Massachusetts Volunteer Militia, 1905
- i. Official papers, military matters during retirement including testimony before Congress, thoughts on European situation and World War I, 1911 – 1924
- j. Memoranda refuting attacks on Miles, 1900-02?
- k. Memorials
- l. Tribute to Miles, undated
- m. Petition concerning the welfare and treatment of Africans by nations governing Africa, undated
- n. Commissions, Civil War, 1<sup>st</sup> LT to MG of Volunteers
- o. Commissions, Regular Army, COL, 40<sup>th</sup> Infantry, BG, MG, LTG; commission to represent U.S. in London in 1897

- Box 8 Miscellaneous
- a. Synopsis of the Military Record of Lieutenant General Nelson A. Miles, U.S.A.
  - b. Biographical sketch
  - c. Honorary degrees, memberships, awards, 1899-1924
  - d. Certificate of awards, 1878-1924
  - e. Speeches, 1868-1921
  - f. Articles, 1879-1901
  - g. Articles published after retirement, 1904-29
  - h. "My Forty Years of Fighting," 1910-11
  - i. Undated article and speeches
  - j. Review of George Crook's autobiography, clipping, 1946

- Box 9 Sherman Miles
- a. Sherman Miles, clipping of wedding
  - b. Articles by Sherman Miles on International Relations, 1921-24
  - c. Articles by Sherman Miles concerning Turkey, 1923-24
  - d. "The Limitation of Armament," by Major Sherman Miles, 1925
  - e. Articles by Sherman Miles, drafts, ca. 1923-24
  - f. Undated, unsigned manuscripts, possibly by Sherman Miles
  - g. "Enforced International Peace," unsigned drafts [by Sherman Miles], 1912-1913
  - h. Drafts on pacifism, the peace movement and the Great War, unsigned [by Sherman Miles], ca. 1920
  - i. Draft typescripts, unsigned and most undated [by Sherman Miles]

- Box 10 The Samuel Reber-Nelson A. Miles Papers
- a. Letterbook, June 11, 1901 – Dec. 31, 1902
  - b. Letterbook, 1903
  - c. Letterbook, 1904